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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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24 DEC 1985

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
 Chairman  
 Select Committee on Narcotics  
 Abuse and Control  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of November 18, 1985, requesting this Agency to appear before the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control in closed session to discuss numerous matters concerning intelligence collection and analysis as it relates to the foreign illegal narcotics trade.

I would be most willing to have my specialists brief your Committee about current trends in the illegal foreign drug trade on a regional basis. I must, however, ask that you not request us to discuss our capabilities and activities to collect against the narcotics target, nor that we be asked to discuss particulars of requirements or details of our relationships with foreign intelligence services. Such information is extremely sensitive and cannot be revealed without revealing sources and methods information which does not pertain strictly to the illegal foreign narcotics trade.

As you know, the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, provides an explicit statutory scheme for the provision of intelligence-related information to Congress. In this regard, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence serves as the focal point within the House for intelligence matters relating to the CIA. I believe that we have a sound relationship with that Committee that takes into account the oversight concerns of the Congress and the security concerns of the Executive Branch.

If the oversight process on such sensitive matters is to function effectively, I cannot respond routinely to congressional requests for information outside the normal



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channels established by the National Security Act. I believe this is particularly the case where intelligence sources and methods are involved, as they are in this case. For these reasons, I hope you can appreciate my reluctance to discuss all the information you have requested.

I hope we might be able to satisfy your Committee's interests in the manner I have suggested. If this arrangement is acceptable to you, we will prepare for an initial meeting with your Committee at a mutually acceptable date. I will be happy to discuss this further if you desire.

Sincerely,

WJL William J. Casey

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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## Remarks

To 13: Please provide appropriate response.

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Executive Secretary

21 Nov 85

Date

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# U.S. House of Representatives

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
 NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL  
 ROOM H-234, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX 2  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
 COMMITTEE PHONE 202-226-3040

November 18, 1985

Honorable William J. Casey  
 Director of Central Intelligence  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

In our examination of the Administration's Federal drug strategy, the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control has been holding a series of informal briefings this year with various drug control agency heads to review the roles of their agencies in narcotics control.

An issue of continuing concern to the Committee and many of the drug enforcement agencies we have talked with is the need to expand and improve narcotics intelligence. As we continue our oversight, the Committee would very much like to meet with you and appropriate members of your staff in closed session to receive a briefing on the Central Intelligence Agency's responsibilities and participation in narcotics intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination. Among the issues we would like you to discuss are:

-- the requirements for narcotics intelligence collection assigned to the CIA;

-- the CIA's capabilities and activities to assess (1) illicit coca cultivation and processing in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador; (2) illicit marijuana production in Mexico, Jamaica, Colombia and Belize; (3) illicit opium cultivation and processing in Thailand, Burma, Laos, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Mexico; and (4) eradication of illicit narcotics crops in these areas;

-- the CIA's capabilities and activities to collect intelligence on major traffickers and trafficking organizations engaged in smuggling illicit narcotics to the United States;

-- the CIA's relationship to the National Narcotics Intelligence Consumers Committee and the agency's role in the development of the annual narcotics intelligence estimate (the most recent one, which was just released, covering 1984);



Honorable William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

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-- the CIA's support to and cooperative efforts with other agencies responsible for drug control including the DEA, the Bureau of International Narcotics Matters in the State Department, the Coast Guard, and the U.S. Customs Service;

-- the capabilities and activities of the CIA to collect information on the links between international narcotics trafficking, political Insurgency and terrorism;

-- the capabilities and activities of the CIA to collect intelligence on the involvement of foreign governments, directly or indirectly, in the production, processing, or trafficking of illicit narcotics and psychotropic drugs;

-- the priority assigned to drug intelligence collection efforts by the CIA and the impact of other international developments on these efforts; and

-- the CIA's perspective on the international situation in the latter half of the 1980's and the implications for narcotics control.

I would appreciate it if your staff could arrange the details of this briefing with John T. Cusack, Chief of Staff of the Select Committee. We would like to hold this briefing before Congress recesses this year at the end of the first session of the 99th Congress. In view of the sensitive matters to be discussed, the briefing will be limited to the Members of the Committee and Committee staff with appropriate clearances.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RUSSEL  
Chairman

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